

# Crossing

Volume 5, Number 3

Roxbury Community College

Spring 2001

## Congressman Capuano to Speak at Graduation on June 1 in Media Arts Center

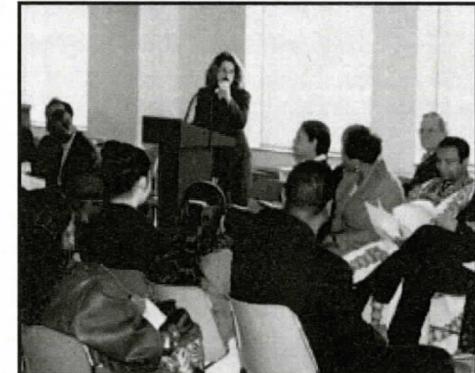


Michael Capuano, a two-term congressman of the eighth district, will be the Commencement Speaker at Roxbury Community College's graduation ceremonies on June 1, 2001 at the Media Arts Center.

Capuano is a member of the House Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on the Budget.

Well known to residents of the eighth congressional district where he serves, Congressman Capuano has worked diligently to find ways to create affordable housing, to provide assistance for the development of new intergenerational housing for grandparents raising their grandchildren, and to increase the value of certain section 8 vouchers to offset rising housing costs.

## Students Honored for Scholastic Achievement



Joseph D. Feaster, Jr., counsel to the law firm of McKenzie and Edwards, P.C. and President of Feaster Enterprises, was the keynote speaker of the spring 2001 honors assembly. A two-term former president of the Boston Branch of the NAACP, Feaster is chairman of the Dimock Community Health Center's Board of Directors.

Sixty-four students achieved a grade point average (GPA) of at least a 3.76 in the fall of this year, and sixty-three achieved this GPA in the spring. They were recognized as the president's list scholars.

Fifty-two students achieved a grade point average of 3.50 to 3.75 in the fall of this year, and eighty-one achieved this GPA in the spring. These students were recognized as dean's list students.

Twenty-four students were recipients of Roxbury Community College Foundation Scholarships.

## **From the Desk of President Grace Brown, Ed. D.**



Graduation is always an exciting and positive event in the history of Roxbury Community College. As we begin celebrating our twenty-sixth graduating class, we also reflect upon the successes of this past year.

We convened stakeholders from the college and the community to attend an innovative conference on the future of Roxbury Community College. Attending this precedent setting program were members of the legislature, business community, community leaders, the college's trustees and foundation boards and visiting committee as well as students, faculty, administrators, staff and alumni. The purpose of the conference, to help set Roxbury Community College's agenda for the next decade, was successfully met and implementation of the recommendations is ongoing.

One of the many strands emanating from the conference is the importance of an environment that is even more student-centered. We have made progress ensuring that this very important goal will be achieved. The student government association has provided exceptional leadership and continues to seek ways to work with us to implement major improvements

in the services to students. This includes streamlining the registration process, ensuring offices are open when evening students are on campus, additional tutors, providing state of the art computer labs, and hiring faculty members who are as committed as we are to providing the highest quality education and offering new and innovative educational programs.

Technology upgrades are on the horizon, and we are fortunate as an institution to be where we are at this point.

We opened a newly refurbished day care center that, for the first time ever, includes a state of the art playground.

Roxbury Community College held a highly successful presidential lecture series with nationally known speakers, including author, educator and lecturer Jonathan Kozol and prominent social critic and distinguished economic theorist Dr. Glenn C. Loury.

We hired a new provost, Dr. Janis Jones, who shares the vision of your president, and who has worked diligently to ensure that our students receive what they justly deserve, the highest quality education from a concerned, committed faculty. We have implemented new programs and courses that are designed to ensure that our students will be among the best-educated and brightest stars as they continue on their educational and career paths.

Dr. Everest Onuoha has expanded the acclaimed honors program and has hosted two colloquia sessions.

We have developed several partnerships with a wide variety of organizations, including Stop and Shop

Supermarkets and the New England Baptist Hospital. Your president represented community colleges during an articulation agreement ceremony among the Urban League, American Council on Education, American Association of Community Colleges, NAFEO, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities held at Howard University.

Our new Department of Fine, Performing and Media Arts recently held a three-day performance of *Porgy and Bess*, which was widely acclaimed and very well received.

These are just some of the many changes and achievements made at Roxbury Community College over the past year. We are not content to rest on our accomplishments. Over the summer Roxbury Community College will continue to move forward to the next level of excellence.

The new century has brought Roxbury Community College, and indeed all of higher education, new experiences and challenges. As we bring our best successes, our students, forward to celebrate their achievements, we must reflect on how far we have come over the past year.

## **From the Desk of Provost Janis Jones, Ed. D.**

### **How Do I Know That You Are Leaders?**

I don't. How do I know that I am? Some people believe that leaders are born. Others believe that leaders are made. And still others believe that behind every great male leader there is a great female leader. I, for one, certainly believe that!

But I also believe that leaders, both great and not so great, are derived from a combination of factors that begin with birth and are shaped through circumstances and experiences.

The contributions of leaders like Geronimo, Mary McLeod Bethune, Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., John F. Kennedy, Sun Tsu, Che Guevara, Cheddi Jagan, Mother Teresa and many others have been recorded in history books.

But, the truth is that the contributions of most leaders will, in fact, go unrecorded because their deeds will never be noted in *The New York Times*, *The Globe*, *the Banner* or even on the six o'clock news.

There are certain traits that true leaders have in common. For example, true leaders have no interest in fame or fortune. A true leader remains focused on the value of his or her input toward the betterment of mankind, and if fame and/or fortune result from that, then so be it, but it is not what is important.

**What is important is that you nurture others, create a safe environment, go out of your way to assist those in need, demonstrate respect for the rights of others, and stand up for the rights of others.**

I believe that we are all born leaders. A parent is a leader; a sibling is a leader; a friend is a leader; a teacher is a leader; a boss is a leader; a salesperson is a leader; a street cleaner is a leader, and so on. From birth

*Provost continued on page 4*

## Newsworthy

### March 22, 2001 Proclaimed Dr. Grace Carolyn Brown Day



Roxbury Community College's President, Dr. Grace C. Brown, received a surprise during the yearly Phi Theta Kappa Society's induction ceremony. She was presented with a proclamation by then Governor A. Paul Celluci making March 22, 2001 "Dr. Grace Carolyn Brown Day" in Massachusetts. The governor noted that Dr. Brown has a "tenacious devotion to higher education, an enduring commitment to social justice and a fortified dedication to providing quality education for all students." The proclamation concluded with "Dr. Grace Carolyn Brown's unyielding commitment to fostering growth in all of the areas of the institution has indelibly improved Roxbury Community College for the current wave of students and staff as well as solidified a foundation of success for future generations to learn and grow from."

## Welcome

Welcome to the college's newest Trustees, **Dr. Michael J. Hoyle** and **Rear Admiral Wendell Norman Johnson**. Dr. Hoyle is employed as the Assistant Director of Doctoral Programs at the Harvard Business School. Rear Admiral Johnson is the Vice President and Dean of Students at Boston University.

**Dr. Patricia Schuldenfrei**, the Director of Nursing and Allied Health. Dr. Schuldenfrei has a doctorate in continuing adult education and a bachelor's and master's degree in nursing. Schuldenfrei comes to the College from Massachusetts Bay Community College where she served as the department chair of the largest associate nursing degree program in the state.

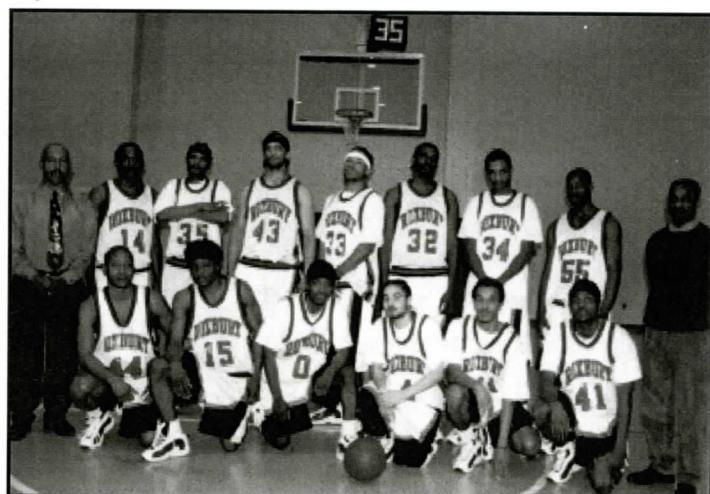
**Dr. Matt Quigley** has joined the faculty in the science department. Dr. Quigley received his Ph.D. in Chemical Oceanography from Texas A&M University and holds a B.S. degree in Marine Science. Dr. Quigley's interests have involved the environmental implications of the ocean's carbon cycle, including the exploration of the effects of global warming. While at Roxbury Community College, Quigley hopes to develop a vigorous environmental studies program. His goal is "to create an active environmental studies program as well as to encourage and mentor students pursuing scientific careers through real-world research, problem analysis and problem solving."

## Congratulations

Roxbury Community College's Math, Science and Technology Department received the Award of Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, given by the President of the United States. **Dr. Kyriss Rodriguez** and **Dr. Andu Gebremichael** accepted the award for the College. Dr. Rodriguez was also honored as a Biomedical Science Careers Program Honor Roll Member, acknowledging her numerous contributions to the Biomedical Science Careers Programs.

Roxbury Community College sophomore **Ka'Reem Horton** was chosen as a member of the 2001 NJCAA Division III Men's basketball All Americans, and sophomore **Sharod Campbell** was selected as a third team member. We are so proud of the Tigers – not only for their excellence in sports and sportsman-like behavior, but also for keeping academic excellence foremost in their minds.

**Martha Lambert**, Administrative Assistant in the President's Office. Martha's daughter, Jacinda Lambert, has received numerous awards for her prowess on the basketball court, and was named *Boston Globe*'s New England Most Valuable Player as a senior. "Cinda," a two-time New England high jump champion, is pursuing her love of the sport while she studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



Kneeling (left to right): Ryan Watkins, Andre Daley, Mustafa Alibi, Charlie Lagoa, Simir Graca, Lester Carter. Standing (left to right) Head Coach Malcolm Wynn, Sharod Campbell, Ka'Reem Horton, Jamil Abdullah, Gabriel Callendar, Johnafer White, Keenan Small, Jarred King and Assistant Coach Carson Forde.

"**The Tigers**", Roxbury Community College's basketball team, finished third in the NJCAA national tournament. Their number one ranking was maintained for the entire year and they brought home both state and regional trophies. Roxbury Community College was prominently featured on the cover of the March 2001 edition of the *JUDCO Review*, the official magazine of the National Junior College Athletic Association. The Tigers and Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center were the centerpiece of the magazine.

*Crossing* is the newsletter of Roxbury Community College. It is published for the staff, employees, alumni, students, supporters, and friends of Roxbury Community College. Send inquiries and correspondence to Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Avenue, Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120-3400 Attention: Dr. Nadine Dowling, Administrative Building.

## Calendar

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| June 1       | Graduation: 11:00 a.m. – Media Arts Center   |
| June 4       | Summer Session One Classes Begin             |
| June 7       | Roxbury Community College Foundation Meeting |
| June 26      | Board of Trustees Meeting                    |
| July 17      | Summer Session Two Classes Begin             |
| September 5  | Fall Registration Begins                     |
| September 12 | Fall Classes Begin                           |
| October 9    | Compact Semester Classes Begin               |

## Provost *continued from page 2*

to death, we are each leading a life. How successful we are at leading our lives is often determined by the circumstances of our birth and the experiences we live.

If we live long enough, we each reach a point where we can shape our experiences and begin to make choices about our own lives. I think that is when one goes from being a born leader to being a true leader.

I am very fortunate to have been raised in a very loving and supportive family environment. I grew up believing that I was valued by my family and friends and

developed a deep understanding of the importance of bringing out the positive characteristics in myself and in others. I believe I came from a family and environment of true leaders.

But I am not naïve, so I know that everyone is not so fortunate. That is why a true leader feels an obligation to share, to give back for the many blessings he or she has received.

We live in a world today where many of our elected leaders have proved themselves to be unfit for the positions of leadership that they hold. However unfortunate this is, this does not mean that we should just throw up our hands and say, "That's life!" or "It's not my problem!" What it means is that you and I have to work much harder to ensure that our children are not tainted by these negative images of leadership.

We must help children understand the difference between right and wrong, whether it's in the political arena, the entertainment industry, or just every day life.

How do I know that you are true leaders? The answer is that I still don't. But I believe that you have what it takes to be one.

And finally, how do I know that I am a true leader? Well, I don't know that either, but I never stop trying to become one, which I believe is the essence of true leadership.

So while I continue to work on becoming a true leader, I will be content if I can help to point the way for all of you.

## Human Resources

**Question:** I have been employed by Roxbury Community College for eight years. I have heard that the state has an early retirement incentive program. As a non-unit professional, what additional money would I receive should I choose to take this early retirement option?

**Answer:** First, you must meet the qualifying age of fifty-five, have served within the state system, and have participated in the retirement program for at least ten years. If you elect to retire early, you must notify the President of the College in writing of your intent to retire not less than one year in advance of the retirement date.

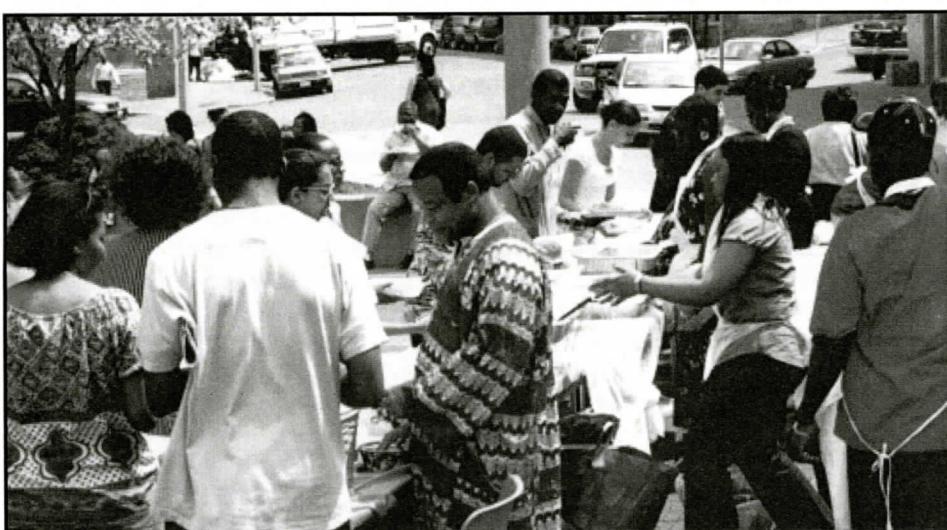
You will receive an early retirement incentive, in addition to your regular retirement annuity based on the following schedule:

| Age     | % of Salary |
|---------|-------------|
| 55 - 60 | 30%         |
| 61      | 25%         |
| 62      | 20%         |
| 63      | 15%         |
| 64      | 10%         |

For further information on retirement options, please call Gretchen Jones at extension 5302.

## Positions Available At All Levels

The college has several positions open at all levels, from Clerk IV to Associate Provost. If you are interested in promotional opportunities at Roxbury Community College, or if you know someone who could be a valuable member of the Roxbury Community College Team, please contact Faye Naderi at 617-541-5378. For general information, please call our job hotline at 617-541-5391.



Faculty, Students and Staff enjoy a sumptuous meal prepared by the International Honor Society (Phi Theta Kappa) during their annual International Food Festival.